

Felipe and Sarah Yanez

Link Letter no. 48 | May 2022

churchmissionsociety.org/yanez

CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY



The call in action

Dear friends,

Philippians 2:2 *Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being in one spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself.*

The world has an urgent need to hear the gospel. We have been with CMS for over 20 years and God has used our strengths (and weaknesses) in many different ways as we have worked with local churches. We have found ourselves bringing fresh insights to traditional structures, which are sometimes tired or in need of a fresh perspective. Focusing on relationships, we have tried to demonstrate love and encourage unity. It is a constant lesson in humility, realising that there are often multiple perspectives, and that it is critical to listen to and validate other people's views and experiences as we partner together in God's mission.

Ecumenical events

In the last few years, members of the local Catholic church and our church have held a joint carol service. This year the Catholic church decided to take it public, and it was held in our town's main plaza, with the council providing the stage and sound equipment. In Spain, events like this are extremely rare, and it was a lovely time of witness, focusing on the story of Christmas and the things we hold in common.

Then in January, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity saw a handful of people from each church united again in our church premises. I was asked to lead a few songs and Felipe did one of the readings. Attendance was a bit disappointing, as many people in both Catholic and Evangelical churches (including ours) are not in agreement with events such as these. Many Catholics believe the Evangelical Church is a sect, and Evangelicals focus on the idolatry that is prominent within the Spanish Catholic Church and fail to see that some people do have a real faith. There were some great conversations that night, and we pray for the ongoing building of bridges between our faith communities.

Mental health workshop

I, Sarah, recently led a workshop, hosted by our church, on looking after your mental health. The subject continues to hold significant stigma here in Spain, where there is very little support other than talking to friends or a visit to the doctor for tranquillisers and anti-depressants. The workshop used information and techniques based on the human givens approach as well as other personality and emotional health tools. Although only 14 people attended, it was a lovely, varied group who all felt they benefited from the workshop. A few women asked for follow-up one-to-one sessions,



Name: Felipe and Sarah Yanez

Location: Malaga, Spain

Our call: Our aim is to build bridges, bring encouragement and hope and share Christ with people from all walks of life.

Our role: Felipe's work includes supporting a food bank, Bible studies and informal discipleship. Sarah helps manage the ABC food bank and runs its clothes bank.



Continued over the page

Ecumenical carol service

which was encouraging. Please pray for wisdom as I continue working with these women and look for the best ways to support them on their journey.

Changes afoot

And so, to our biggest news.... Due to various family circumstances, we have decided to return to the UK this summer. It has been a difficult decision, as we feel very settled in our local community, with so many amazing friends and opportunities for ministry in the Diez42 foodbank, our church and in relationships with people here. But, there are seasons in life and after 15 years in Spain, we feel it right to move back.

Sarah's father, at 88, remains well in his home just outside Ipswich, but we are conscious that living in a tiny village with no shops and an extremely limited bus service will become more problematic as time goes on, and Sarah would like to be there to help, as and when necessary. Sam, as you know, is already studying in Ipswich and is getting on well with his course, which is a great answer to prayer. In June, Aaron finishes his GCSE-equivalent year at our local high school and we feel he too will benefit from moving to a different system of education, in order to reach his full potential. He is applying to the same college as Sam. Please pray for clarity as he decides which course to apply for.

We don't yet know what the future holds with regard to work and ministry. We are grateful that CMS will continue to support us for a number of months on our return. During that time, we will be seeking God's guidance and provision for either ongoing ministry opportunities or "normal" jobs in and around Ipswich.

So, could we please ask for your specific prayers during the coming months. There are lots of ends to tie up here: selling the vast majority of our belongings; booking and transporting some personal items and our dog Beula (she travels with a pet transport company on 12 August); passing on the baton for the activities we're involved in; Aaron choosing which course to study; saying goodbye and leaving so many friends. And as we believe God goes before us to make the way, we ask for prayer for our arrival (initially at Sarah's dad's house): for decisions about long-term housing and location; provision and timing of future work and/or ministry roles; ongoing financial support through CMS during the period of transition; Aaron's admission to the same college as Sam; cultural and language adjustments for us all; and finding friendships and local churches as we put down roots in Ipswich for the first time (having never actually lived there for more than a few months at a time).

As always, more regular news is available through our Facebook group Yanez Family Updates. Do search for the group and answer the questions in order to join.

Every blessing, and thank you again for journeying with us.

Felipe, Sarah, Sam, Aaron and Beula



Photos from top to bottom: Mental health workshop; Sam and Aaron; homegroup meal; refugee choosing clothes at Diez24

GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

Anvil journal of theology and mission explores creative mission with articles from mission thinkers and practitioners, plus book reviews – read the latest issue at churchmissionsociety.org/anvil

You can give to Felipe and Sarah at:
churchmissionsociety.org/yanez

Contact details:
sfsyanez@yahoo.co.uk

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400

Church Mission Society is a mission community acknowledged by the Church of England Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).